Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A strap guiding assembly for use on a strapping machine to guide a strap into an accumulator, the assembly comprising:

a first member;

a plurality of rollers rotationally coupled to the first member; and

a second member ~~movably coupled to the first member, the second member~~ having a curved surface aligned with an entrance for receiving the strap, wherein the first member is movably~~e~~ coupled~~relative~~ to the second member to move between a first configuration in which the strap is constrained between the curved surface and the plurality of rollers~~,~~ and a second configuration in which the strap is unconstrained and free to move into the accumulator,~~;~~ and wherein the~~a~~ plurality of rollers are~~rotationally coupled to the first member, the rollers~~ configured to follow a path complementary to at least a portion of the curved surface.

20. (Previously Presented) The strap guiding assembly of claim 19 wherein the curved surface is convex and oriented toward the accumulator to give the strap an initial curvature when the assembly is in the first configuration such that the strap will tend to move into the accumulator when the assembly moves into the second configuration.

21. (Currently Amended) The strap guiding assembly of claim 19 wherein the first~~second~~ member moves toward the second~~first~~ member when the assembly moves into the first configuration, and moves away from the second~~first~~ member when the assembly moves into the second configuration.

22. (Previously Presented) The strap guiding assembly of claim 19, further comprising an actuation mechanism to selectively move the assembly between the first and second configurations.

23. (Currently Amended) The strap guiding assembly of claim 19 wherein a curve intersecting ~~a~~the respective centerline of the plurality of rollers is substantially similar to at least a portion of the curved surface of the second member.

24. (Previously Presented) A strap guiding assembly to guide a strap, the assembly comprising:

a first member;

a plurality of rollers rotationally mounted to the first member;

a second member having a curved surface; and

an actuation mechanism to translationally move the first member into one of a first position or a second position, the first position wherein the first member is in close proximity to the second member to allow the plurality of rollers to cooperate with the curved surface of the second member to forcibly guide the strap along at least a portion of the curved surface, the second position wherein the first member is spaced apart from the second member.

25. (Previously Presented) The strap guiding assembly of claim 24 wherein the first member is biasly coupled to the second member.

26. (Previously Presented) A strap guiding assembly to guide a strap, the assembly comprising:

a first member;

a plurality of rollers rotationally mounted to the first member;

a second member having a curved surface; and

an actuation mechanism to move the first member into one of a first position or a second position, the first position wherein a guide channel is located between the plurality of

rollers and the curved surface of the second member to forcibly guide the strap along at least a portion of the curved surface, the second position wherein the first member is spaced apart from the second member to eliminate the guide channel.

27. (Previously Presented) A strap guiding assembly comprising:

surface means having a curved portion;

roller means cooperating with the surface means to guide a strap along the curved portion of the surface means; and

actuation means for moving the roller means apart from the surface means to allow the strap to move away from the curved portion of the surface means and into an accumulator.

28. (Withdrawn) A method for guiding a strap into an accumulator of a strapping machine, the method comprising:

guiding the strap into a region formed by a first member and a second member, the second member having a curved surface, a plurality of rollers rotationally coupled to the first member, wherein the rollers are positioned along a path that is substantially complementary to at least a portion of the curved surface of the second member; and

moving the first member proximate the second member to constrain the strap between the curved surface of the second member and the plurality of rollers rotationally coupled to the first member.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

giving the strap an initial curvature by urging the strap through the region toward the accumulator.